

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 1890
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890**

Action ID No. 199831056

July 31, 2003

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE CHARLOTTE/DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, P.O. BOX 19066, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28219, has applied for a Department of the Army (DA) permit TO PLACE FILL WITHIN 21.76 ACRES OF JURISDICTIONAL WATERS AND WETLANDS OF THE U.S., ADJACENT TO AND INCLUDING TICER CREEK AND COFFEY CREEK, IN ORDER TO CONSTRUCT RUNWAY EXPANSIONS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE EXISTING AIRPORT FACILITY LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST QUADRANT OF THE U.S. HWY 521 AND U.S. HWY 29/74 INTERSECTION, IN CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

The following description of the work is taken from data provided by the applicant. Plans submitted with the application show the proposed placement of fill material into 3.78 acres of wetlands, 45,801 linear feet of stream channels, and 8.59 acres of open water associated with the construction of a new runway, the expansion of an existing runway, and the construction of associated infrastructure. This support infrastructure includes the construction of roads, parking areas, rail intermodal cargo facilities, and terminals. Future plans also included in this application propose the construction of rail access to the site for cargo transportation.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for impacts to jurisdictional areas through one or more of the following measures: 1) Land acquisition for off-site restoration, enhancement, and/or preservation of streams and wetlands 2) Payment into the North Carolina Wetlands Restoration Program in the amount necessary to provide the required mitigation 3) Assist the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Stormwater Services in stream and wetland restoration projects. The purpose of the work is to expand runway lengths to accommodate potential air transportation demand and thereby reduce delays during peak operation periods. The proposed work will also provide sufficient terminal gate capacity for commuter, domestic, and international aircraft and provide sufficient ancillary facilities to support the potential increase in air and ground transportation demand. The site plan proposes impacts to all jurisdictional areas within the entire 2,500 acres of proposed expansion. The preliminary site plan showing the proposed work is included with this public notice.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in November of 1999 and the Record of Decision (ROD) was subsequently signed on April 28, 2000. The Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division has not yet reached a decision

regarding concurrence with the FAA that the selected alternative represents the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative. Copies of the Federal Aviation Administration FEIS and ROD can be reviewed in the Asheville Regulatory Field Office, 151 Patton Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina.

The State of North Carolina will review this public notice to determine the need for the applicant to obtain any required State authorization. No Department of the Army (DA) permit will be issued until the coordinated State viewpoint on the proposal has been received and reviewed by this agency, nor will a DA permit be issued until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) has determined the applicability of a Water Quality Certificate as required by PL 92-500.

This application is being considered pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Any person may request, in writing within the comment period specified in the notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein. Based on the best available evidence, it has been determined that no sites within the vicinity of the project are registered or listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. Examination of the National Register of Historic Places constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of other such resources. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit.

The District Engineer, based on available information, is not aware that the proposed activity will affect species, or their critical habitat, designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all those factors which become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards and flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For

activities involving the placement of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria, a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

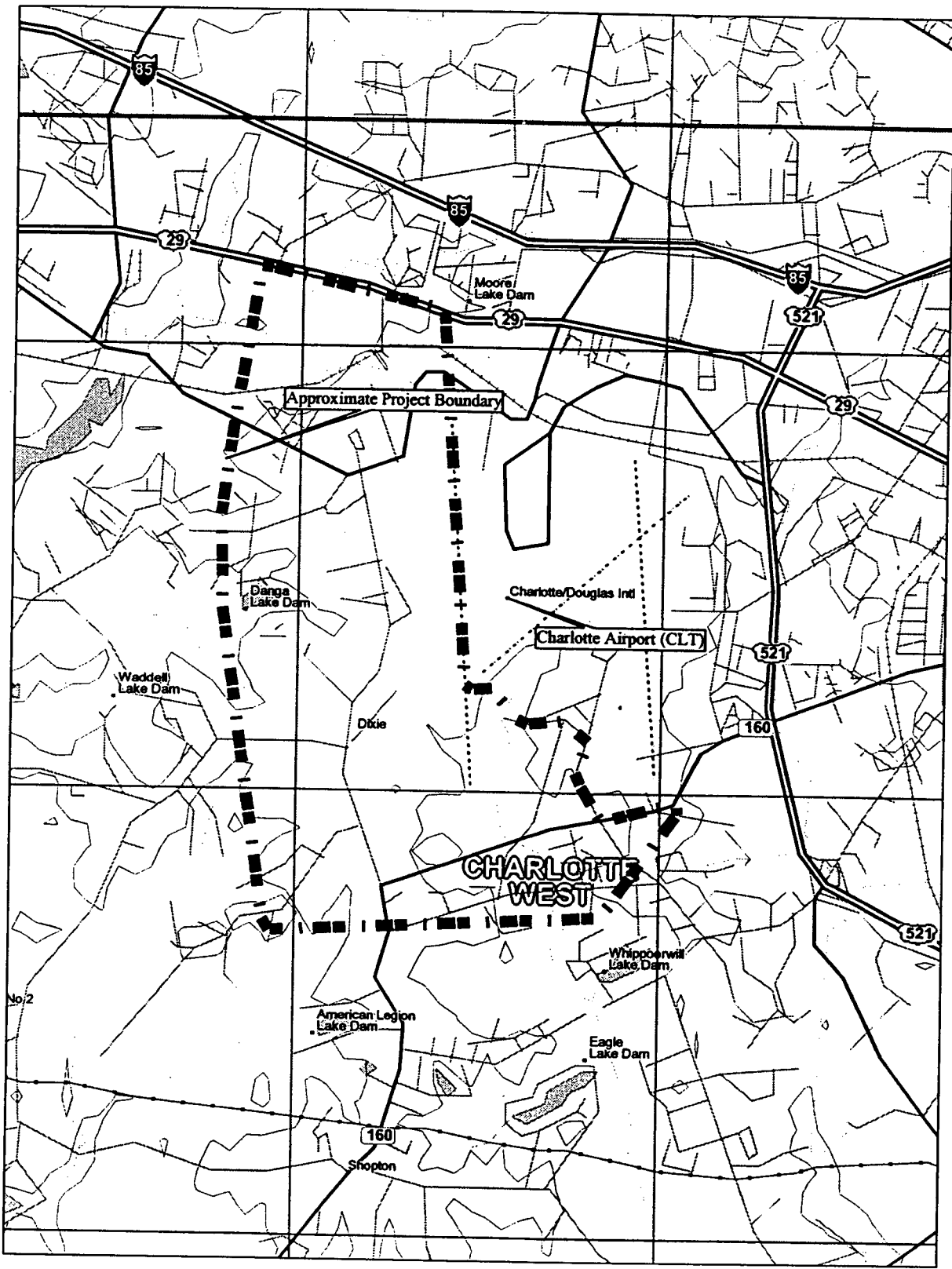
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the individual and cumulative impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Generally, the decision whether to issue this Department of the Army (DA) permit modification will not be made until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The NCDWQ considers whether or not the proposed activity will comply with Sections 301, 302, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act. The application and this public notice for the Department of the Army (DA) permit serves as application to the NCDWQ for certification.

Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the offices of the Wetlands /401 Unit, North Carolina DENR, Division of Water Quality, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina. Copies of such materials will be furnished to any person requesting copies upon payment of reproduction costs.

All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for Clean Water Act certification should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), Wetlands/401 Unit, 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-1650, on or before August 22, 2003, Attention: Mr. John Dorney.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received in this office, Attention: Ms. Amanda Jones, until 4:15 p.m. on August 29, 2003, or telephone (828) 271-7980 extension 8.



BASE MAP BY DeLORME 3-D TOPO QUADS 1999



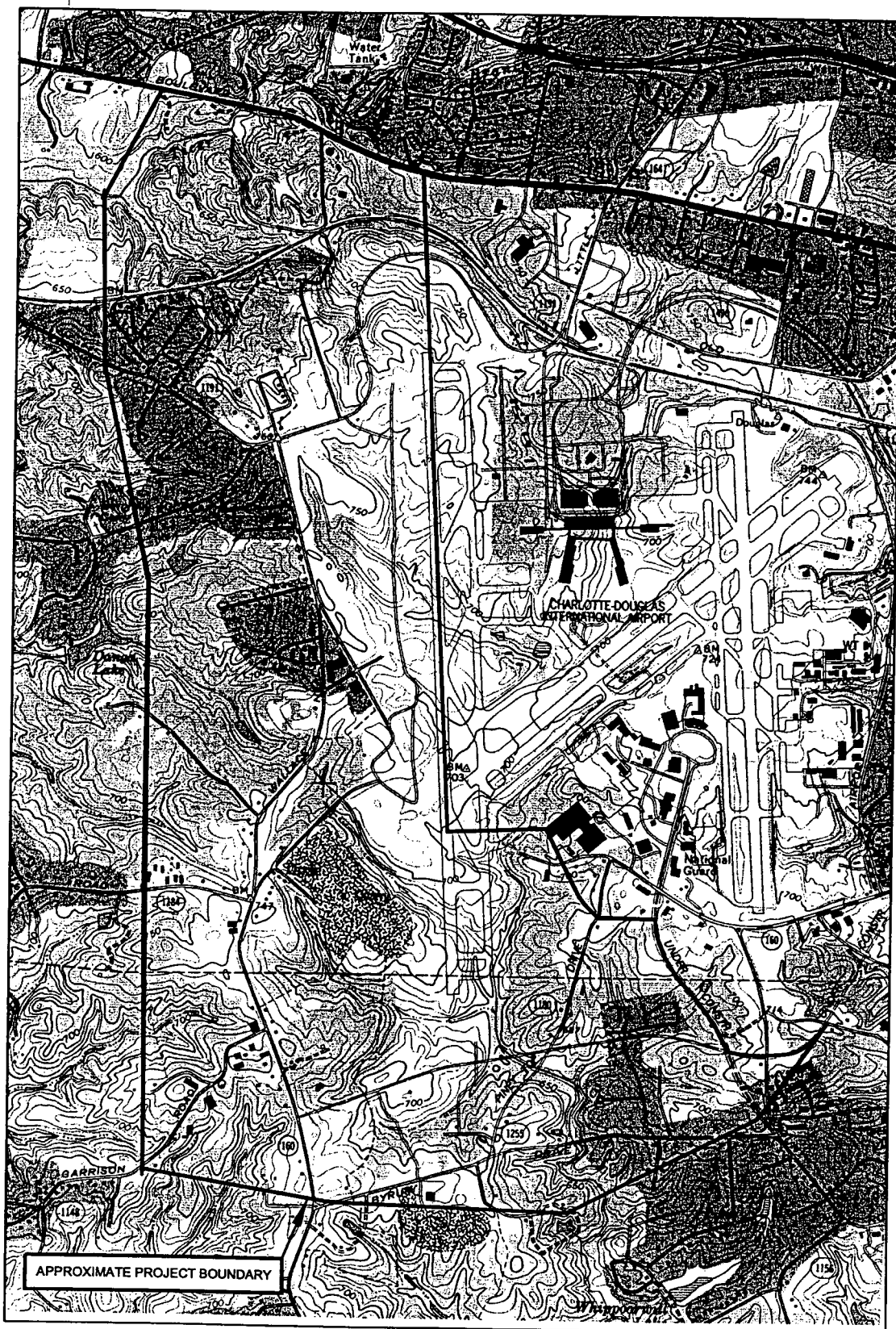
WEST EXPANSION MASTER PLAN

FILE NAME: Final Wetlands Exhibit.dwg

PROJECT NO.: 73100109

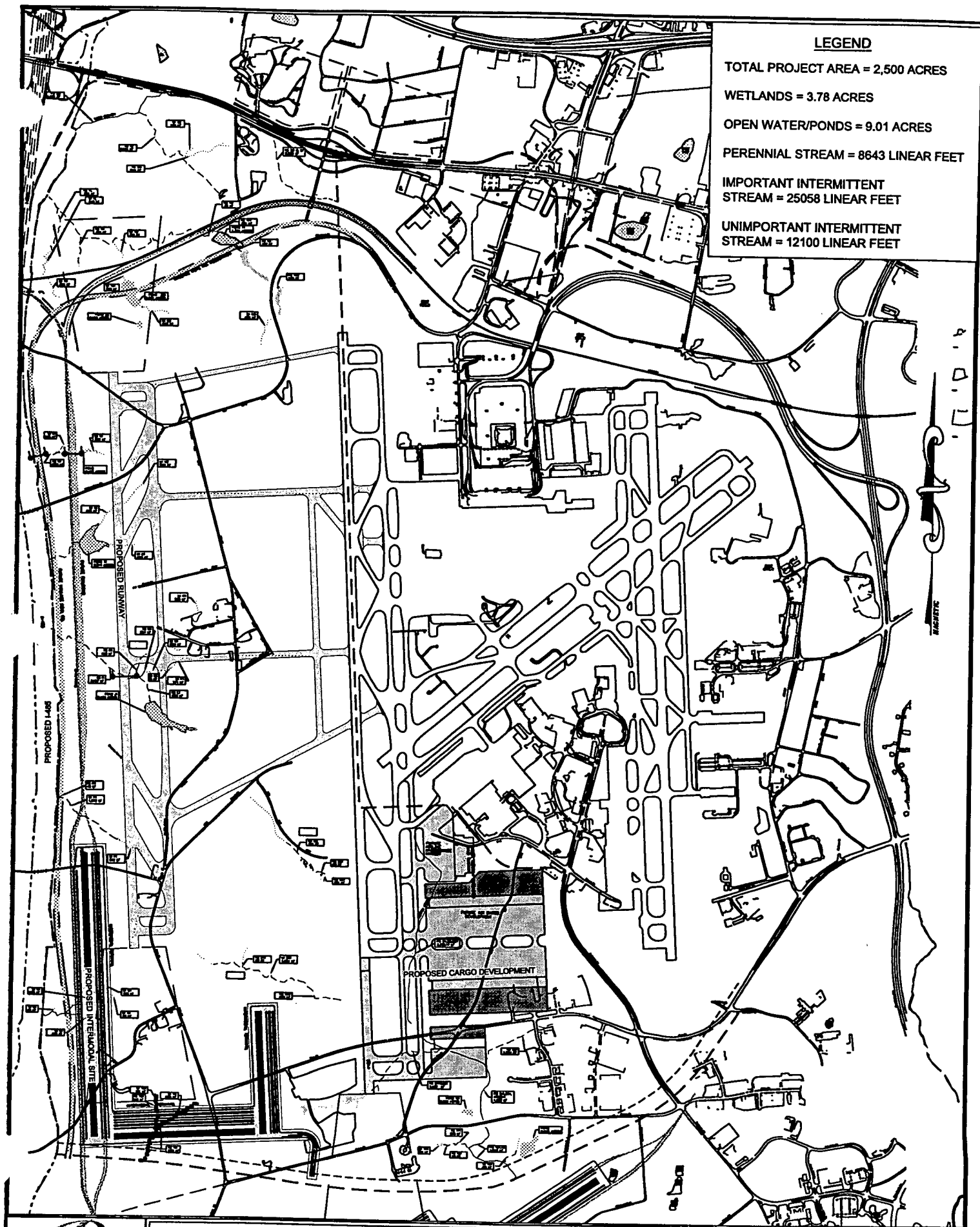
PRINTED: 05/03/2002

SCALE: NTS



BASE MAP FROM USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS "CHARLOTTE WEST" 1993

WEST EXPANSION MASTER PLAN



LEGEND

TOTAL PROJECT AREA = 2,500 ACRES

WETLANDS = 3.78 ACRES

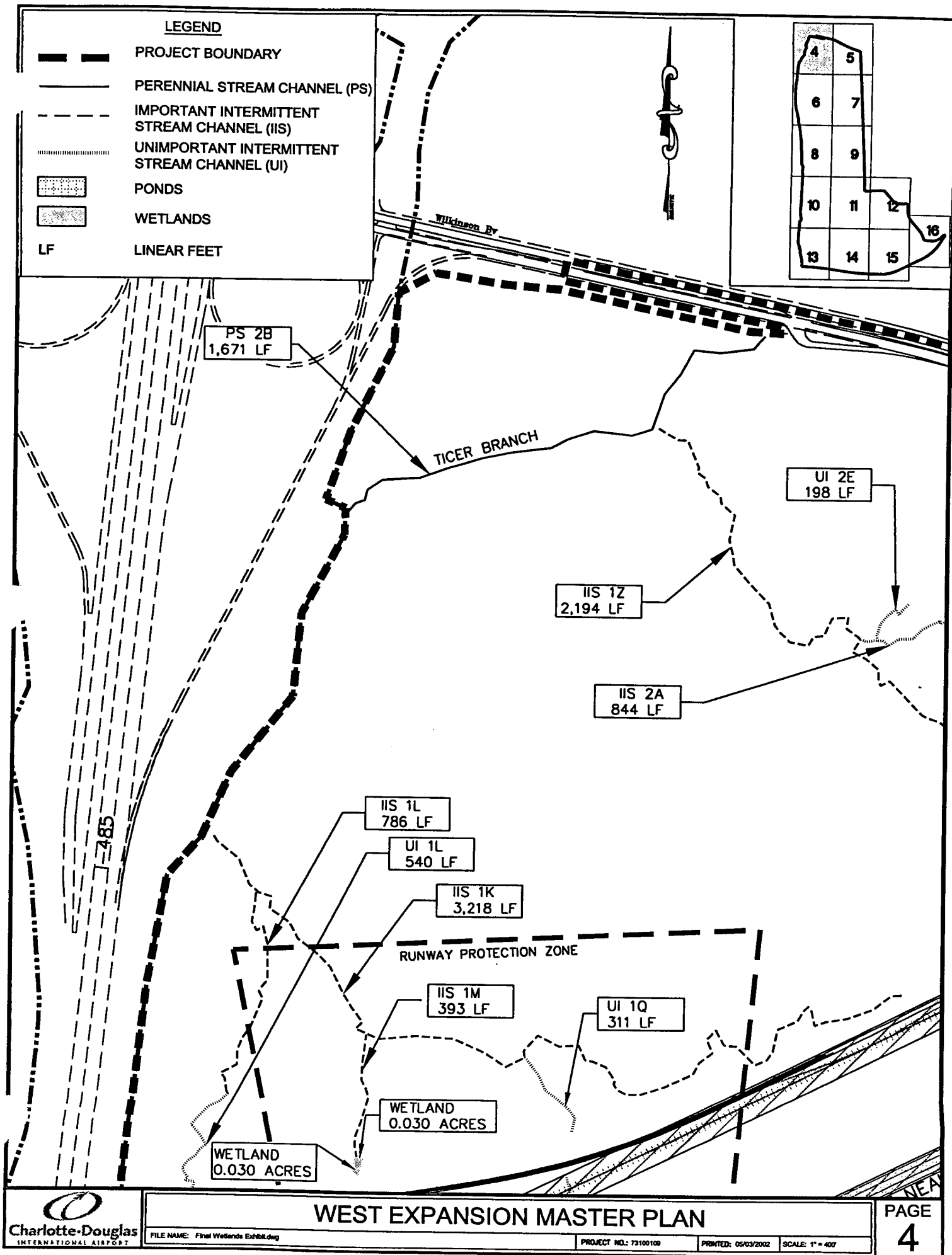
OPEN WATER/PONDS = 9.01 ACRES

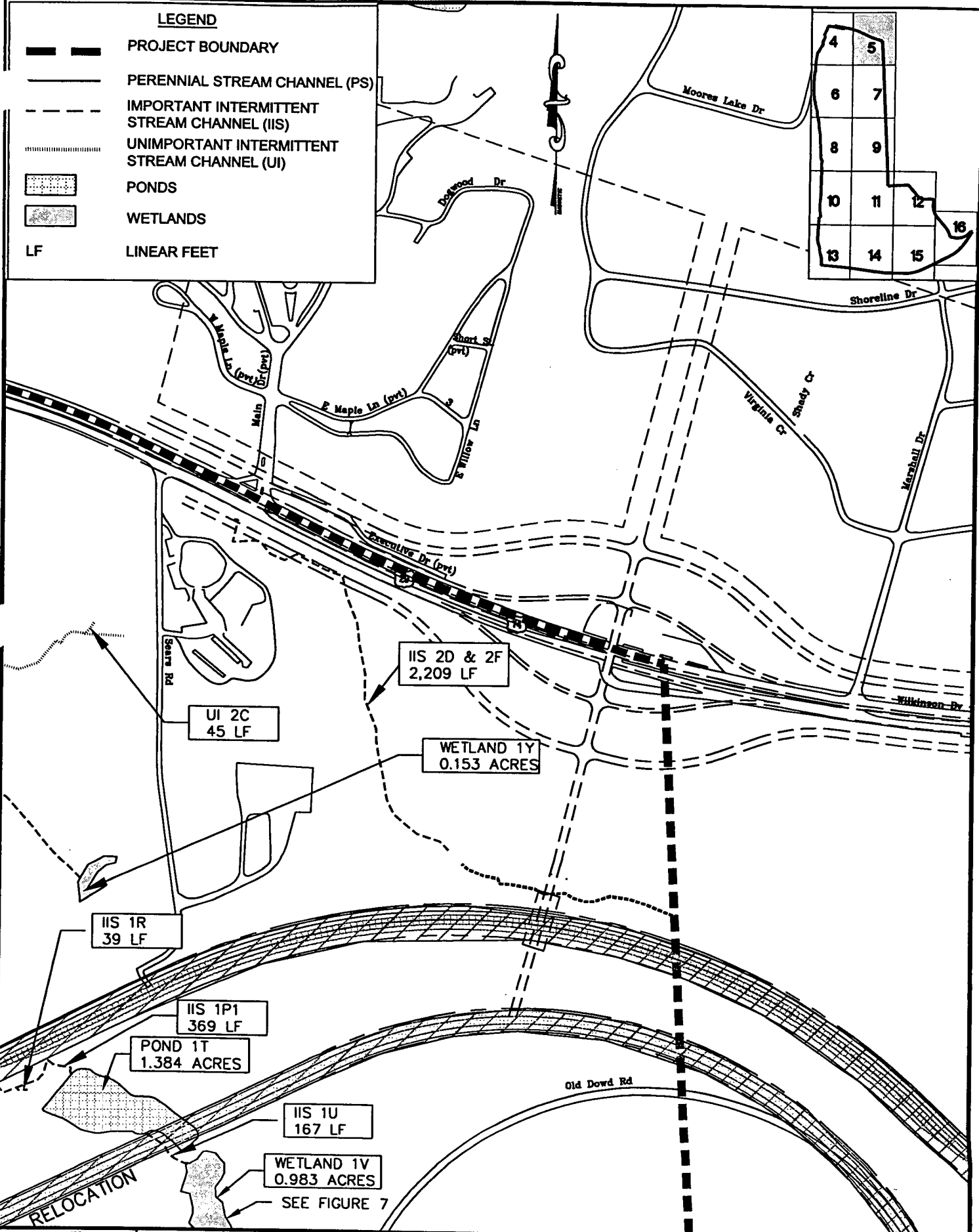
PERENNIAL STREAM = 8643 LINEAR FEET

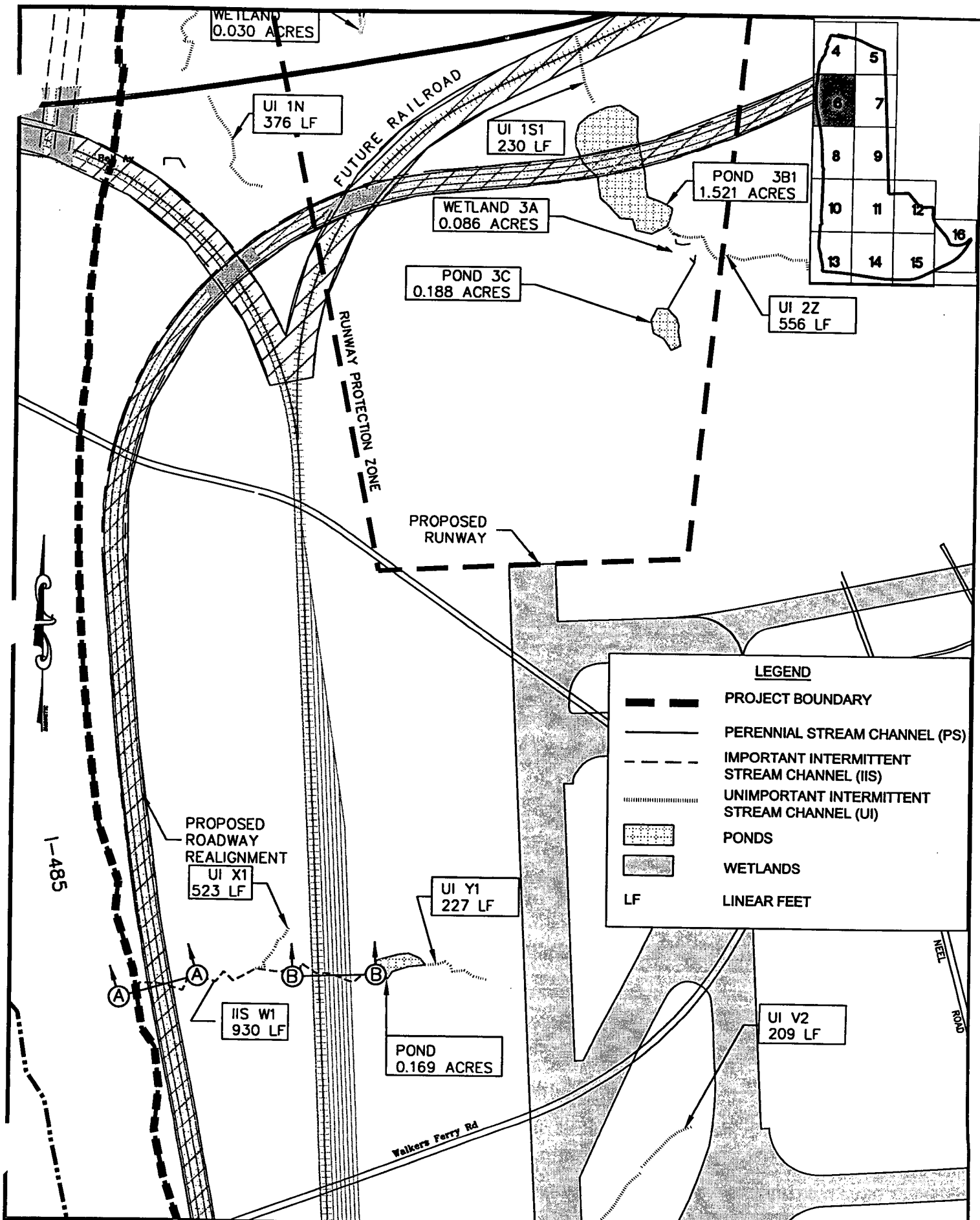
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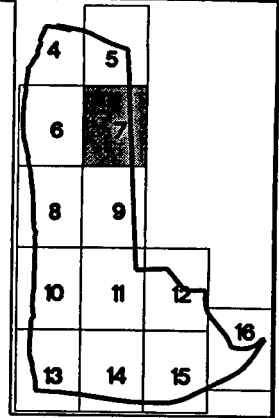
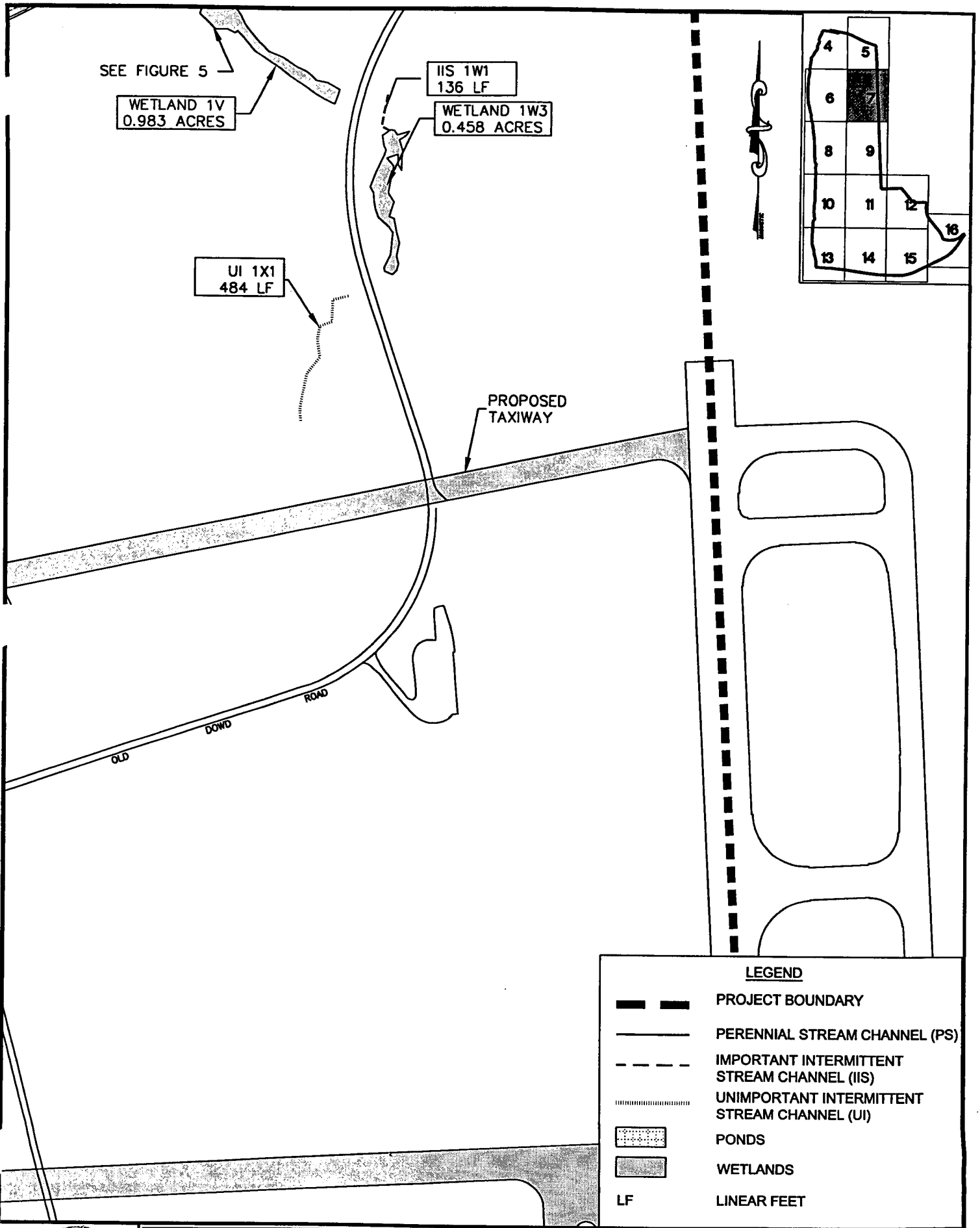
UNIMPORTANT INTERMITTENT
STREAM = 12100 LINEAR FEET

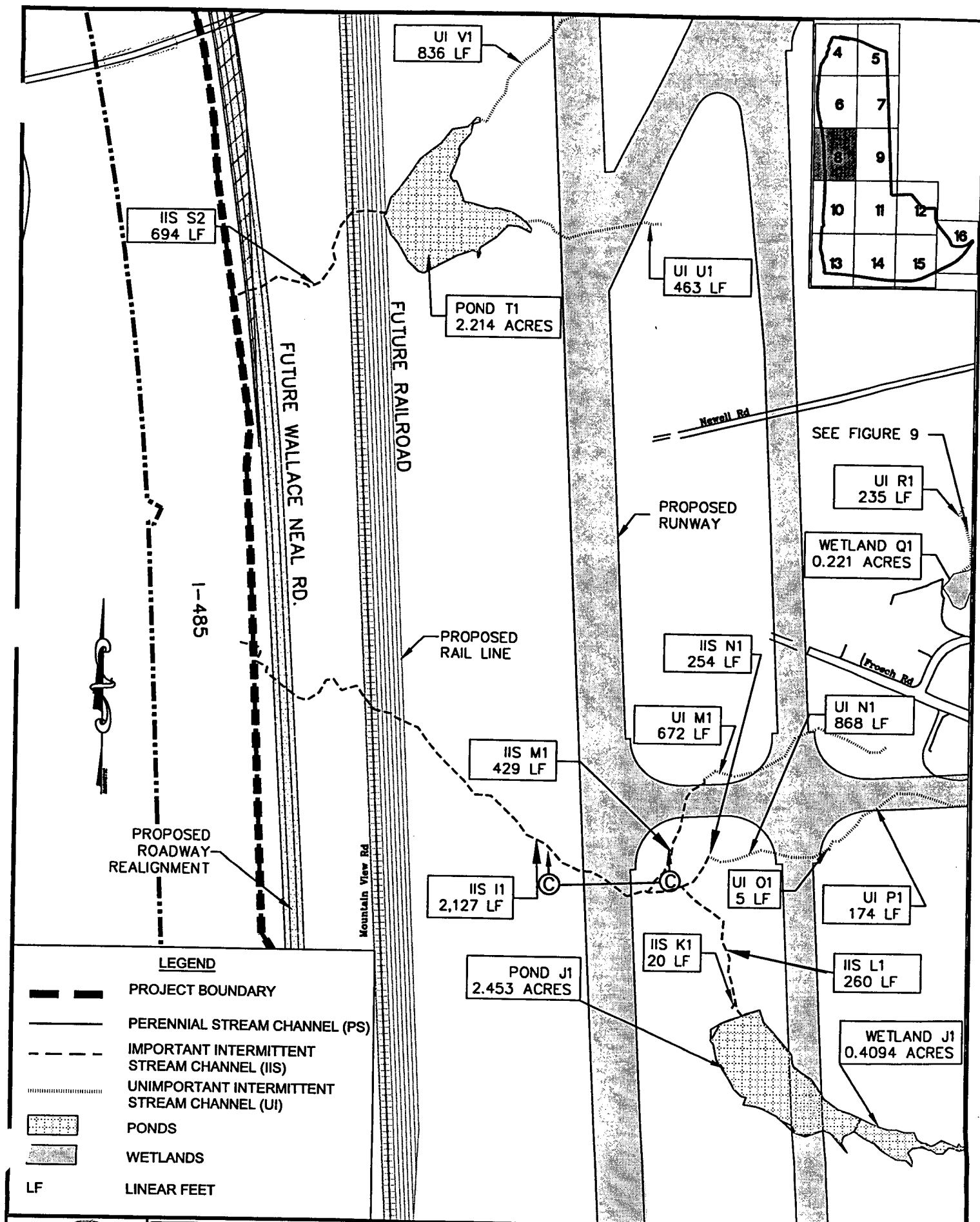
WEST EXPANSION MASTER PLAN

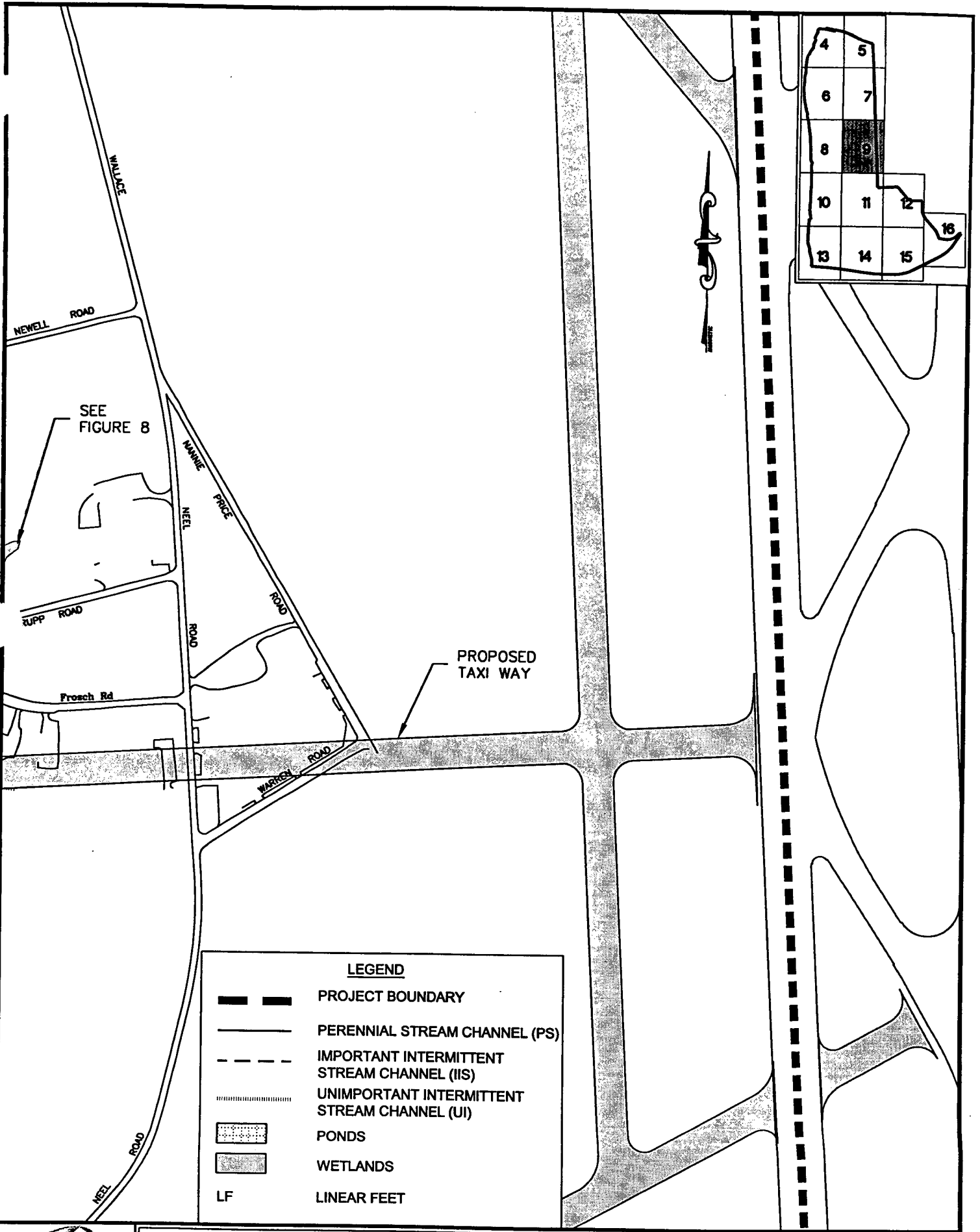






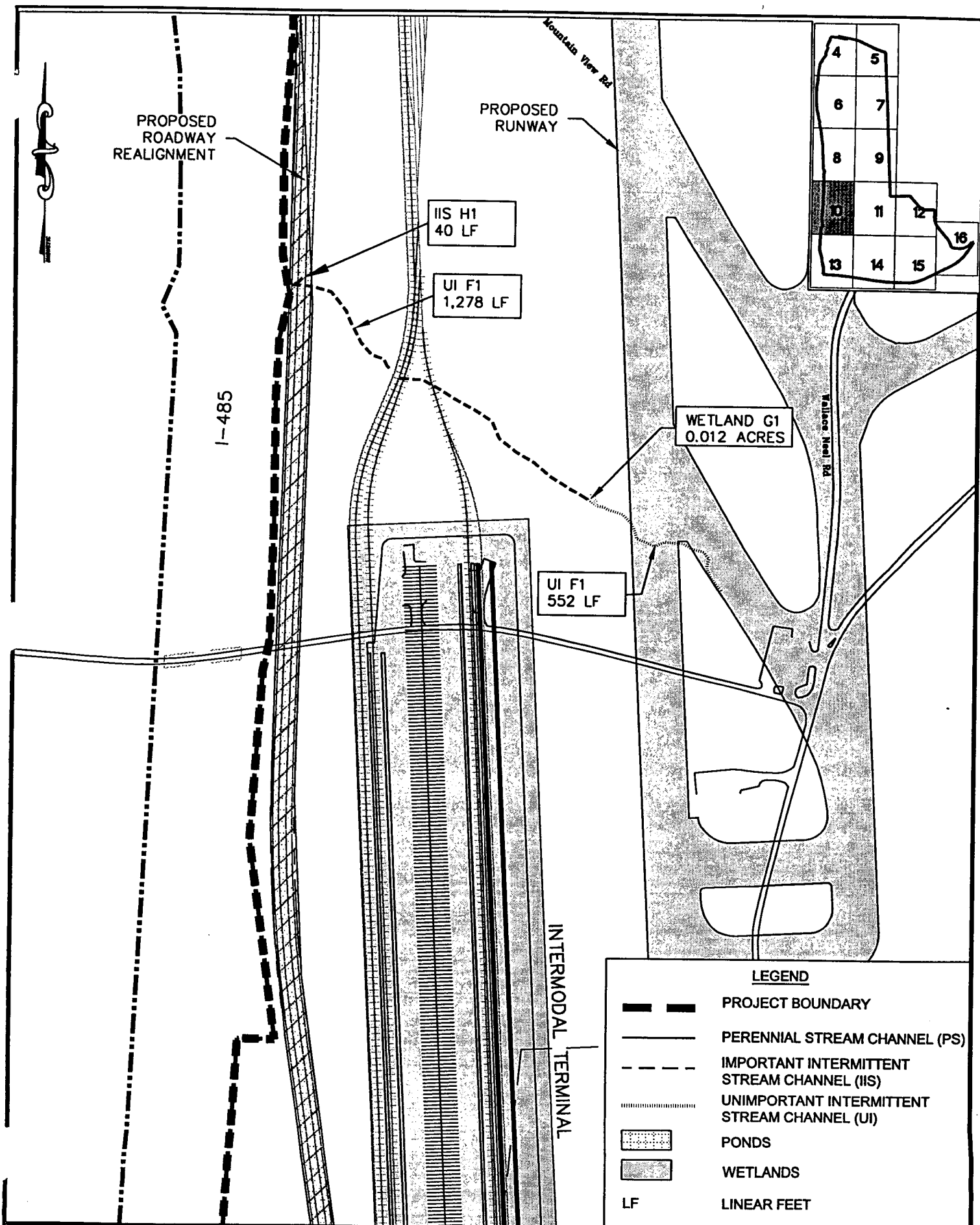


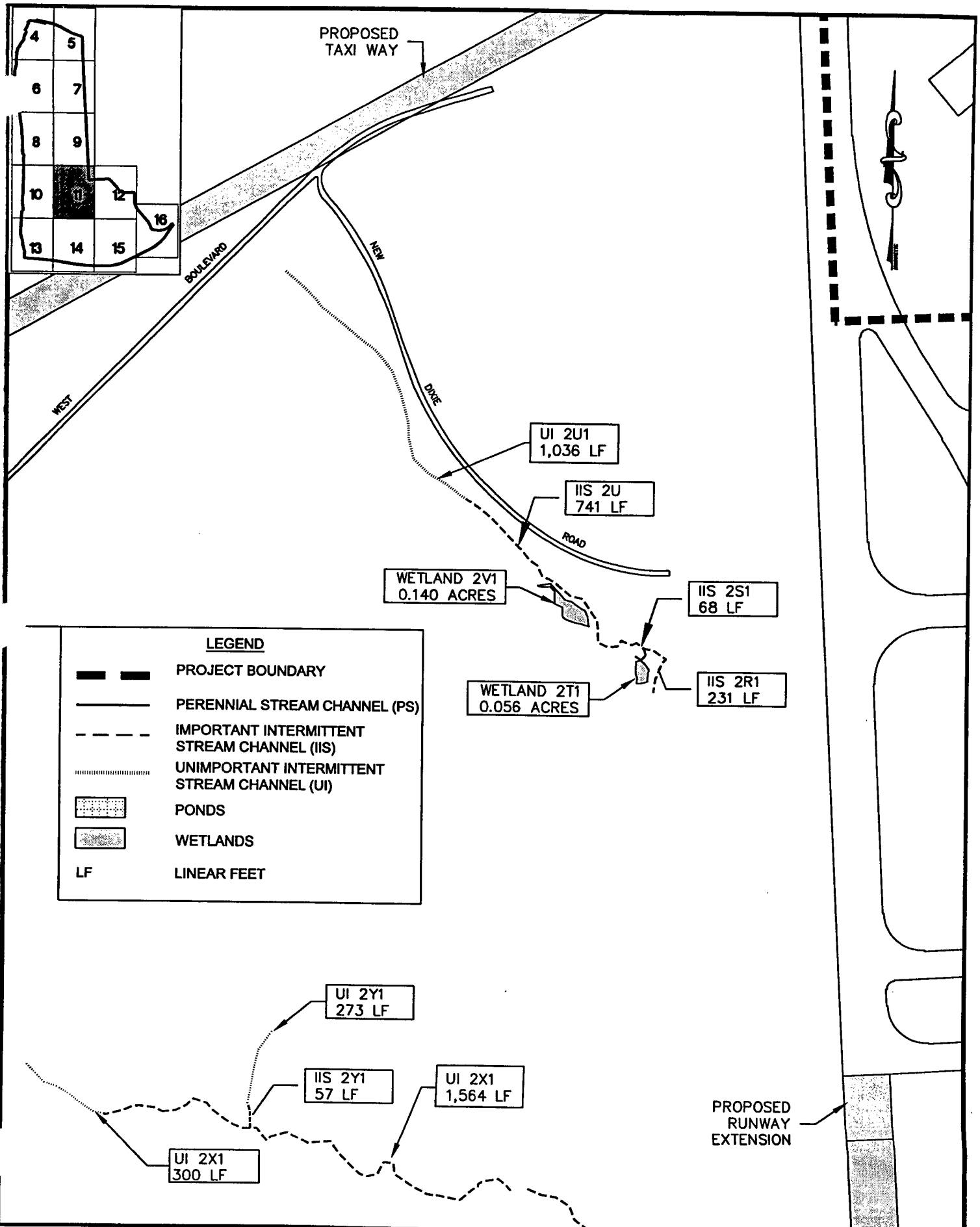


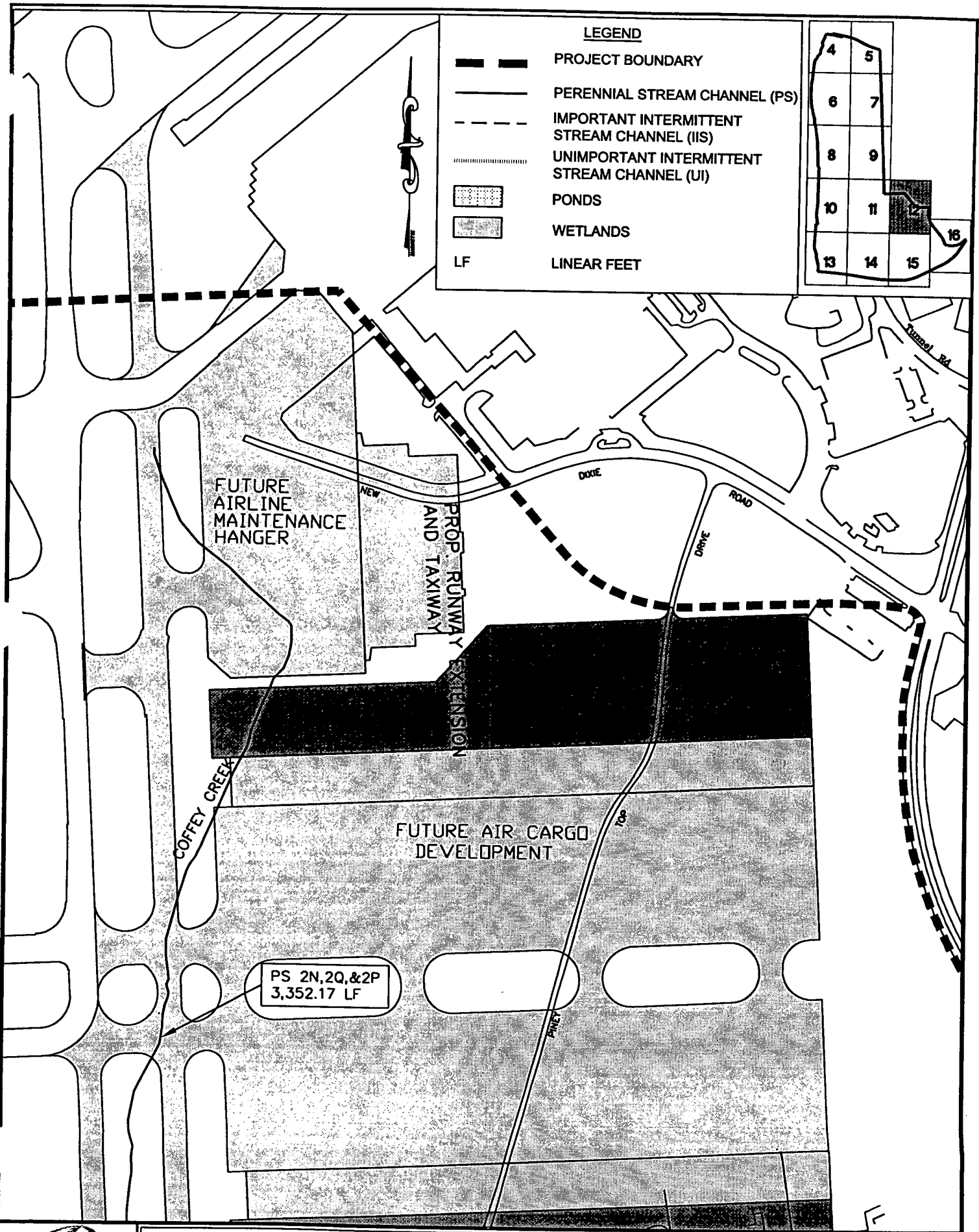


LEGEND

	PROJECT BOUNDARY
	PERENNIAL STREAM CHANNEL (PS)
	IMPORTANT INTERMITTENT STREAM CHANNEL (IIS)
	UNIMPORTANT INTERMITTENT STREAM CHANNEL (UI)
	PONDS
	WETLANDS
LF	LINEAR FEET



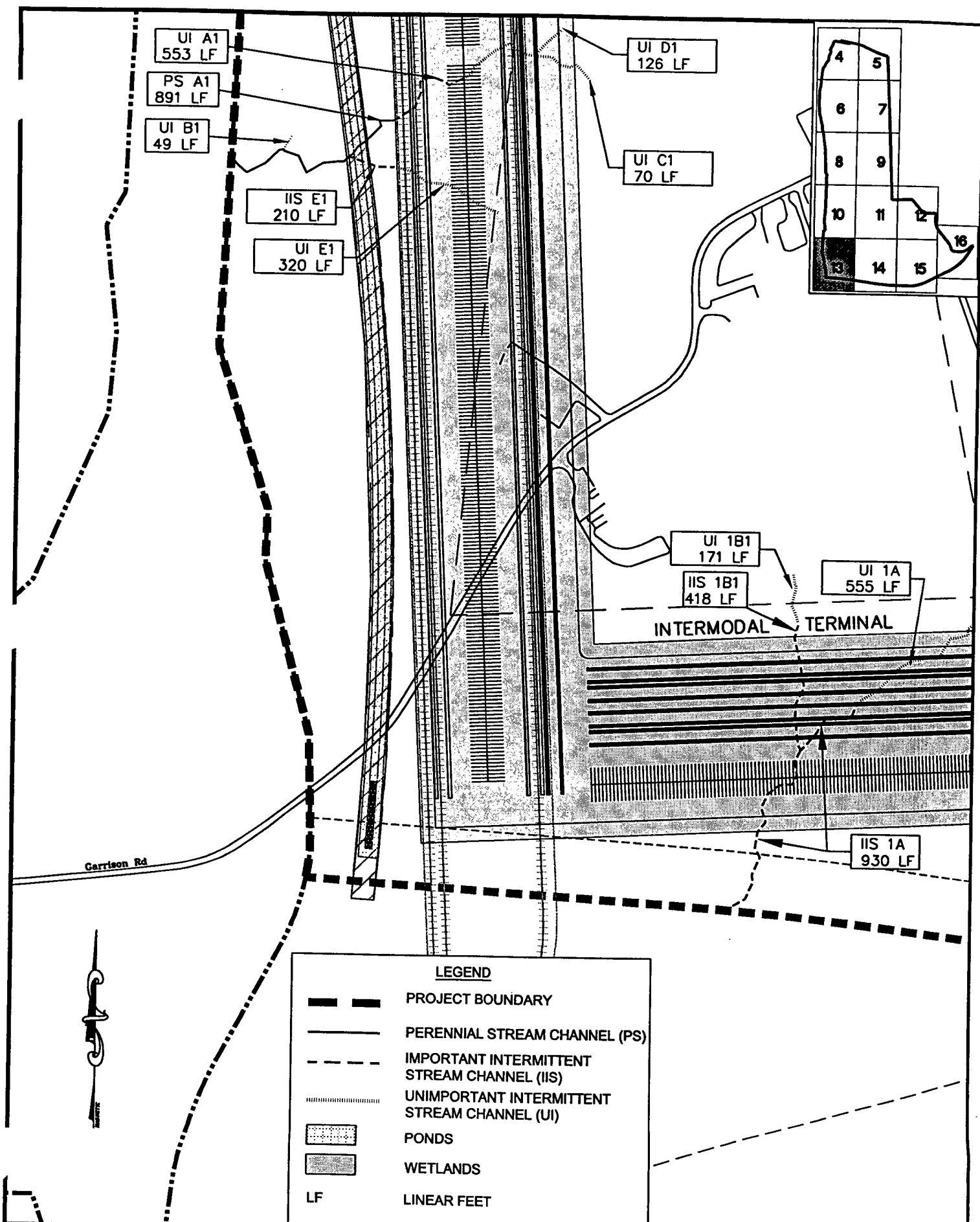


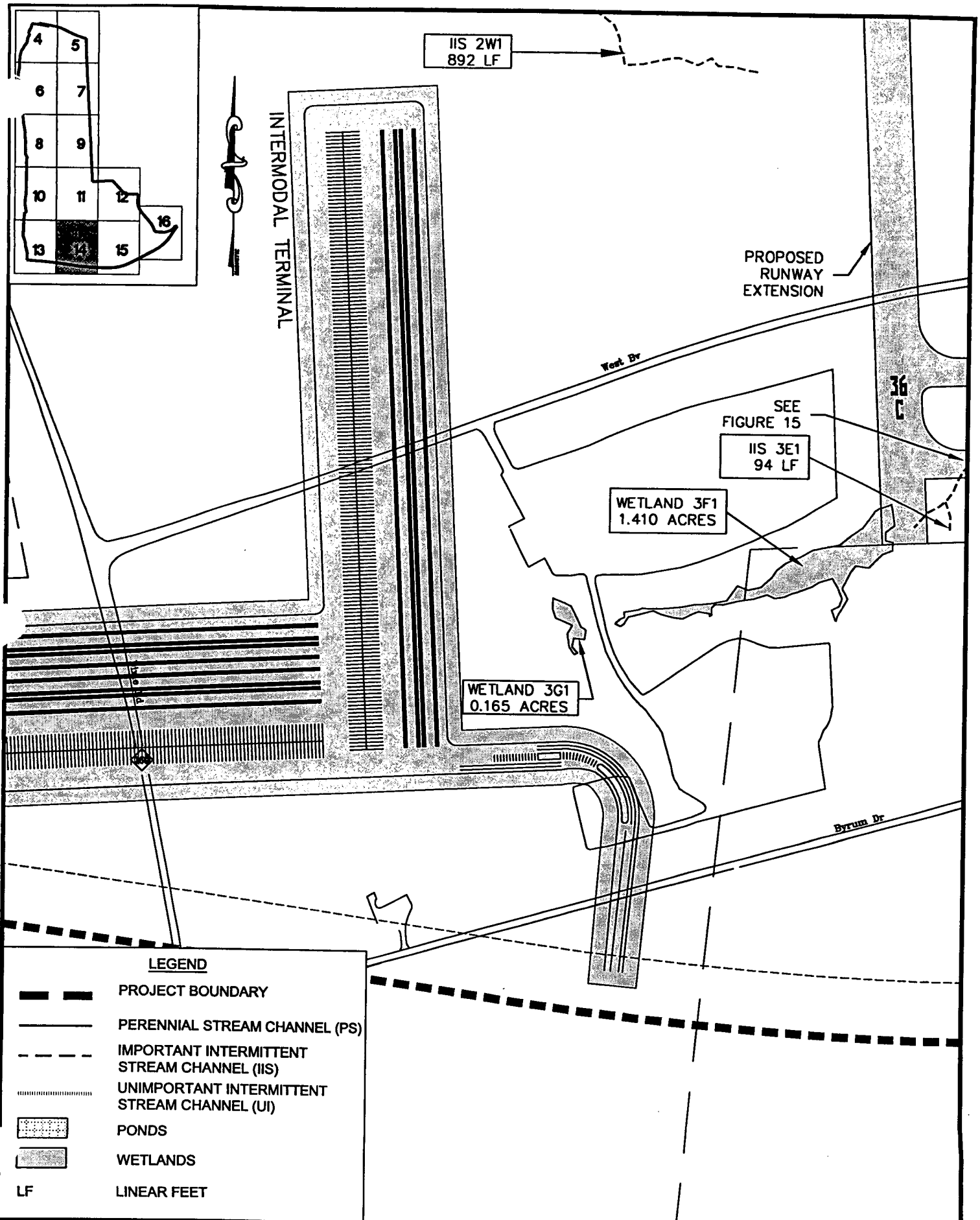


LEGEND

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- PERENNIAL STREAM CHANNEL (PS)
- IMPORTANT INTERMITTENT STREAM CHANNEL (IIS)
- UNIMPORTANT INTERMITTENT STREAM CHANNEL (UI)
- PONDS
- WETLANDS
- LF LINEAR FEET

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WEST EXPANSION MASTER PLAN

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